Shouja Sense

5th Anniversary

History mixed with fiction.
Curses and gifted demons.
Love with hate entangled together.
Secrets and those who uncover them.
Enjoy diversity for yet another year to come.

Shoujo Sense
嘘解きレトリック
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
都戸利津
4
Chapter 19
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http://shoujosense.com

Chapter 19

Will solve
any case
19th District
Tsukumoya
Iwai
Investigation
Firm

CORPSE FOUND
TOMA ISLAND
"ON THE 29TH OF JULY, AT THE TOWN OF HIRO ON TOMA ISLAND,
THE REMAINS OF SHIRAI MINEO WERE FOUND (30 YEARS OLD)."
"THE DETAILS SURROUNDING HIS DEATH ARE STILL UNKNOWN,
AND WHETHER THIS WAS A MURDER OR AN ACCIDENT IS STILL BEING INVESTIGATED."
SO, WHAT HAPPENED
WITH THIS INCIDENT FIVE DAYS AGO?

THIS WAS
THE WORK OF A GHOST.
MEOW
Today, we went to Kirino Kanji's house.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED,
YOU SOLVED THAT PREVIOUS CASE SO EASILY, IWAI-KUN.
I WAS AT TOMA ISLAND,
ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE CORPSE OF SHIRA MINEO WAS FOUND.
CORPSE FOUND
TOMA ISLAND
We met him from that previous case at the haunted mansion.
BUT IT SAYS HERE "WILL SOLVE ANY CASE"...
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT!
I found this in Lily's case
THIS PERSON SPECIALIZES IN THESE CASES.
Journalist
Hanasaki Miyabi
Super rich

THE POLICE CONSIDERED ME AS A SUSPECT BECAUSE I WAS THE ONLY ONE AT THE TIME WHO WASN'T FROM THERE.
BUT I WAS ABLE TO GO HOME BECAUSE MINEO-SAN'S SISTER-IN-LAW AND BROTHER SUPPORTED ME WITH THEIR TESTIMONIES.
I WAS STAYING AT THE HOUSE OF MINEO-SAN'S OLDER BROTHER AND HIS WIFE.
THEY CRIED SO MUCH. THEY SAID MINEO-SAN WAS JUST ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.
I WANT TO HELP THEM.
IT'S JUST TOO SAD TO HAVE HIM DIE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING WHY.
SFX: TWITCH
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO PAY FOR THE DETECTIVE'S FEES.
!!
Kanji-san...

We have
AND ANOTHER 10 YEN
WHEN IT'S SOLVED?
WELL, HOW ABOUT 10 YEN FOR THE INVESTI-GATION,
HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY YOU?
...
...
YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED, I GUESS?

ALL EXPENSES
ARE CHARGED SEPA-RATELY.
a job!!

I DREW THIS ONE FOR A NOVEL.
IT'S AN IMAGE OF TOMA ISLAND.

Six days ago
IT'S A VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA.
Kanji-san went to Toma Island to sketch.
SFX: KSSHH
He was late and missed the boat home.
THE NEXT IS AT 9... IN THE EVENING.
O'clock
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE...
MR. ILLUS-TRATOR,
IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE, WHY NOT STAY AT OUR HOUSE?

The woman's name is Kou Shirai.

Come in!
I INHERITED IT FROM MY GRAND-FATHER.
I LEND MY LAND TO OTHERS AND ASK THEM TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT.
The husband, Shirai Gen,

IS SHE RICH?! THIS IS A HUGE HOUSE.
She invited me to the house where she lives with her husband.
IT'S JUST AN OLD HOUSE.

DID YOU FEAST ON IT?

prepared a lovely meal.

But they suddenly received a telegram from their former teacher saying he couldn't go.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FEAST?
PLEASE CELEBRATE WITH US
That's what the room wanted

SO I STAYED THE NIGHT.
I TOOK A HOT BATH,
DRANK SAKE, AND SHOWED THEM MY DRAWINGS WHILE WAITING FOR MINEO-SAN
BUT
10:00 PASSED,
AND MINEO-SAN STILL HADN'T ARRIVED
Ah.
"His body was found."
11
10
3
THE FERRY ARRIVES AT 9:20
HE SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED HERE 15 MINUTES AFTER THAT
I'LL GO OUTSIDE AND CHECK.
AH, ME TOO...
wooosle

IT'S PITCH DARK OUTSIDE AND YOU'RE DRUNK IT'S DANGEROUS IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE
TAKE CARE, THEN
Gen-san was out for almost an hour looking for him.
MAYBE SOMETHING CAME UP AND HE WASN'T ABLE TO BOARD THE FERRY
IF HE WASN'T GOING TO COME HE SHOULD HAVE SENT A TELE-GRAM
HE MADE KIRINO-SAN WAIT TOO
NO, I'M JUST THANKFUL FOR THE WONDERFUL MEAL.
And that was how dinner ended.
Then, they let me sleep in the guest room.
The next morning, before sunrise
4 o clock ...?
I woke up to the sound of people shouting.
UM...?
KI-RINO-SAN
MY BROTHER-IN-LAW... MINEO-SAN...!!

People from the town came to tell us that Mineo-san's body was found.

It looked like his head hit the rocks.
His body was found by a passerby lying along the rocks by the pier.

CAN WE TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT?
FROM 9:20 TO 10 O'CLOCK,
KIRINO-SAN WAS WITH US THE WHOLE TIME.
They thought I was very suspicious.
BY THE WAY, WHO IS THIS PERSON?
The police came in from the mainland.
HE IS KIRINO-SAN. HE STAYED THE NIGHT WITH US

BUT WERE THEY ABLE TO CONCLUDE MINEO-SAN'S TIME OF DEATH?
THE POLICE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME BETWEEN THEN.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT
The Shirai family supported my claim...
SO THE FERRY ARRIVED AT 9:20
AND MINEO-SAN BOARDED THAT FERRY TO GET TO THE ISLAND.
YES.
IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT MINEO-SAN WAS ON BOARD THE 9:20 FERRY.
TIDE AT 9:30PM
TIDE AT 10:30PM
THE WATER ONLY REACHES THE AREA WHERE MINEO-SAN'S BODY LIES WHEN THE TIDE IS FULL.
AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE HIGH TIDE WAS AT 8 O'CLOCK. BY 9:30, THE WATER WOULD HAVE JUST BARELY REACHED THE BODY
HIS BLOOD STREAMED INTO THE WATER.
AND HOW DID THEY GET 10 O'CLOCK?
THEY KNEW THAT HE WAS DEAD BY 10 O'CLOCK, RIGHT?

At 9:20, he was still alive arriving at the pier.
But before 10, he would already be lying by the rocks, before the tide recedes.
EVEN WITH A SLIGHT ERROR IN CALCULATION, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN LYING THERE BY 10:00.
So something happened between 9:20 and 10:00.
IT'S PITCH BLACK OUTSIDE AT NIGHT, SO NO ONE GOES OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSE AT THAT TIME.
THIS MIGHT SOUND WEIRD, BUT IT COULD BE SOME SICKNESS OR AN ACCIDENT...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU. AM I RIGHT, KANJI-SAN?
I SAW HIM.

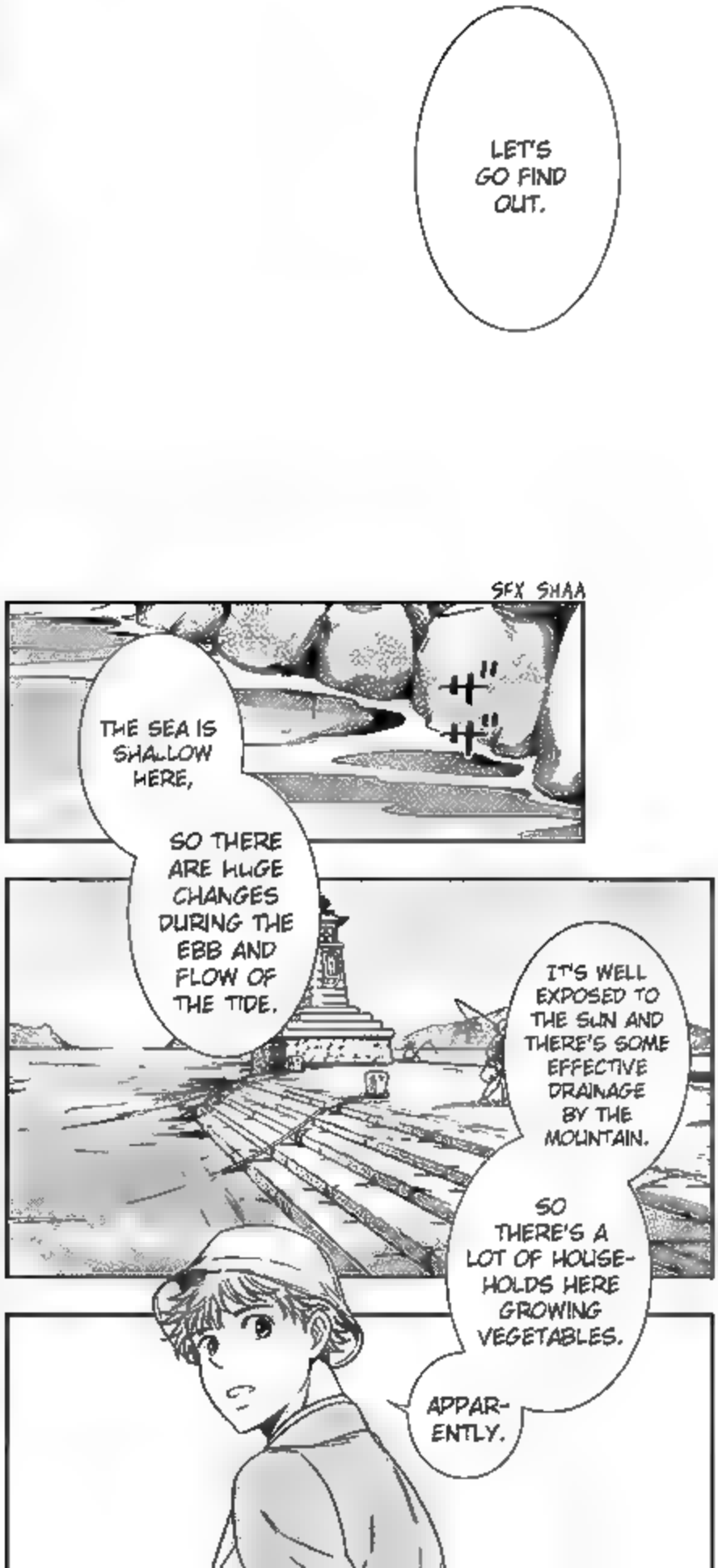
I WAS DRINKING AT THE SHIRAI HOUSE
I SAW IT FROM THE TOILET.
I SAID THE SAME THING TO THE POLICE.
BUT THEY SAID NO ONE IN TOWN TOLD THEM THEY WERE OUTSIDE AT THAT TIME...
AT EXACTLY 9:30
I SAW SOMEONE WALKING IN THE SHADOWS CARRYING A LAMP.

BUT IF THERE REALLY WAS SOMEONE THERE,
AND I COULD HAVE JUST BEEN SEEING THINGS.
HE WAS FAR AWAY SO I COULDN'T DESCRIBE WHO IT WAS,
DOESN'T THAT MEAN SOMEONE IN TOWN WAS LYING?

Lying...
WHY WOULD SOMEONE BE LYING?
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT MINEO-SAN'S DEATH AFTER ALL.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU, IWAI-KUN.
If someone is lying
I will be able to tell with my power.
But if it's just hearsay, I wouldn't be able to tell.
MAYBE WHAT I SAW WAS A GHOST...
AND... IF THERE REALLY WAS NO ONE OUTSIDE AT THAT TIME...
SO did a GHOST kill him?
I'm scared
HMM... WELL,
DETE-CTIVE.

5

今までの私のマンガは3巻までの短い作品でした。嬉しきはこの本で4巻、そして応援してくださるみなさまのおかげで別冊花とゆめにて連載を続けさせていただいています。3巻のような長い話も描けたり、新しいキャラクターをたくさん出せたりできています。いろんなテイストのエピソードを描いていけるといいなぁと思っておりますので、今後もおつき合いよろしくお願いします。



IT'S NOT THAT FAR FROM THE MAIN-LAND
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, IWAI-KUN?
SOME-HOW
IT'S A VERY SMALL TOWN, ISN'T IT?
Town Island
YOU GO UP HERE.
THIS IS THE HARBOR.

ON THE PAPER 5AM, 5:10PM, 9:20PM
THEN THE LAST FERRY LEAVES AT 9:20PM. THAT'S THREE JOURNEYS A DAY
THE FERRY WE JUST RODE ON LEAVES AGAIN AT 5:10PM
THE FIRST FERRY TO THE MAINLAND LEAVES AT 5AM.
AND THERE'S THE FERRY'S WAITING AREA
AND JUST A WAYS OFF FROM HERE.
IS THE ROCK FACE WHERE THEY FOUND THE BODY.
LET'S GO TO THE SHIRAI HOUSE.
WELL,
In mourning

What a beautiful person
I BROUGHT SOME HELP I HOPE WE'RE NOT CAUSING YOU A DISTURBANCE
TANTEI-SAN?
At the Shirai house
there was only the wife, Mrs. Kou.
WELCOME MY HUSBAND HAD TO GO DEAL WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S COMPANY.
HE'S AT HIS HOUSE ON THE MAINLAND
KANOKO-KUN,
SORRY FOR INTRUDING
LISTEN CARE-FULLY

probably wants to ask Kou-san something.
The detective,
YES.
HE WILL BE BURIED AT THE MAINLAND IT WOULD BE HARD TO DO IT HERE...
AND POLICE ARE STILL INVESTI-GATING
WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON THE ISLAND
IS IT TRUE,
THAT MINEO-SAN DIED ON THE NIGHT OF THE 28TH,
BETWEEN 9:20PM AND 10:00PM?
NOTHING...
HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING NEW SINCE THEN?

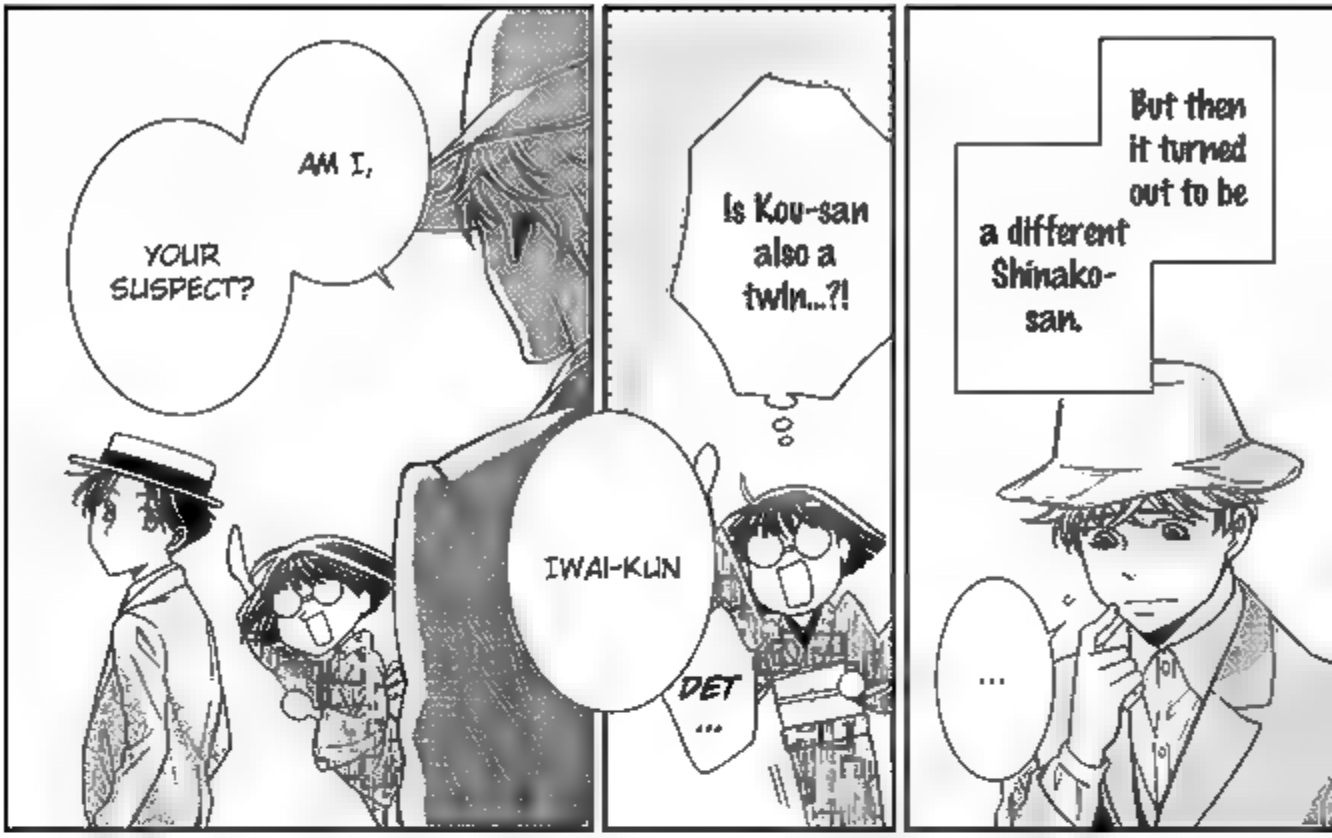
really wanted to ask Kou-san something.
YES, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD
So the detective
It's true.
SO BETWEEN 9:20PM TO 10:00PM WHEN MINEO-SAN WAS KILLED,
YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND
WERE HERE WITH KIRINO KANJI-SAN?

A lie...?!
I WAS WAITING FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER TO COME HOME
I DIDN'T KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO H.M
YES.
What!
A lie...
THAT MEANS YOU BOTH HAVE ALIBIS.
But
IWAI-KUN!!

IT'S TRUE
Isn't lying.
Kanji-san
THEY WERE WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! IT'S TRUE!
YES.

KIRINO-SAN SAYS.
IT'S JUST AS

Why...?
It was like
back then, when Shinako-san
"Um? Yes, I did."
said that she ate dinner with us.


AM I,
YOUR SUSPECT?
IWAI-KUN
Is Kou-san also a twin...?!
DET ...
But then it turned out to be a different Shinako-san.
...

Maybe
Ah, that's right
IF YOU WERE GUILTY, KANJI-SAN,
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME AND ASKED FOR MY HELP.
YOU WENT TO KOU-SAN TO ASK THE SAME THING YOU ASKED ME.

KANJI-SAN.
that the detective is suspecting is...
the one

Why?!
WHY?
CAUSE THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
YOU SAID YOU WERE WITH THE SHIRAI COUPLE AT THAT TIME, RIGHT?
Again?
YEAH
I MISSED THE 5:10 FERRY AND WENT TO THE SHIRAI'S HOUSE.
I ATE DINNER, THEN TOOK A BATH AT AROUND 8PM.
WE DRANK FROM BEFORE 9PM UNTIL PAST 10 WHEN THE HUSBAND DECIDED TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR MINEO-SAN.
I ALSO WENT TO THE KITCHEN AND THE BATHROOM DURING THAT TIME, BUT THAT WAS ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES.
I WAS WITH THEM BOTH THE WHOLE TIME.
I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY QUESTION.
HOW
DID YOU KNOW WHAT THE TIME WAS?

THE TIME ON THAT CLOCK WASN'T CORRECT?
THE CLOCK!
IT WAS THERE! A HUGE WALL CLOCK
I COULD SEE IT THE WHOLE TIME
The time?
HOW
HMM
He's going to be here soon.
CAUSE WE WERE WAITING FOR MINEO-SAN TO ARRIVE
I'll just go to the bathroom.
BUT WHAT IF,

WHAT IF IT WAS
AN HOUR LATE?
HUH?
AH!
So then,
THAT MEANS GEN-SAN, THE HUSBAND,
DOESN'T HAVE AN ALIBI BETWEEN 9:10 AND 10:00
IF HE CAME BACK AT 10 PAST,
WHAT IF IT WAS ACTUALLY STILL 9:10 WHEN THE HUSBAND WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR MINEO-SAN?
WHAT IF IT WAS ACTUALLY STILL 8:20 WHEN THEY SAID THE FERRY SHOULD BE ARRIVING?

"So between 9:20PM to 10:00PM"
"you and your husband were here with Kirino Kanji-san?"
"Yes."
It's not that they weren't together.
Then everything else lines up with Kanji-san's testimony.
SO THE CLOCK MIGHT HAVE STOPPED WORKING...
THAT'S ..
HM?
If her lie has something to do with the difference in time.
THAT CAN'T BE, IWAI-KUN.
WE DON'T HAVE PROOF YET ..
AND KOU-SAN AN ACCOM-PLICE
THAT WOULD MAKE THE HUSBAND THE MUR-DERER.
CAUSE, AT THAT DAY,

I ALSO HAD THIS WATCH.
IT WAS IN MY POCKET THE WHOLE TIME.
I WAS IN THE WAITING AREA LOOKING AT MY WATCH WHEN KOU-SAN CALLED OUT TO ME.
SO SHE KNEW I HAD A WATCH
WOULD SHE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
What.
I didn't say
I didn't ask.
Huh.
After I came back from my bath,
the husband said the clock stopped, so he was adjusting it.
SINCE WHEN DID TH S CLOCK STOP
AND ALSO,
ON THAT DAY, THEY SYNCED THEIR CLOCK WITH MY WATCH.
rustle rustle
AH, I HAVE A WATCH HERE.

IT'S 8:55PM.
DEAR, HERE'S THE CLOCK IN THE OTHER ROOM, OH...
MY WATCH HAD THE SAME TIME AS THE CLOCK THAT THE WIFE HAD.
SO IF THAT WAS WRONG,
THEN THAT MEANS MINE IS TOO
THIS WATCH HAS THE CORRECT TIME EVEN NOW,
SO IT HASN'T BEEN AD-JUSTED.
So it's impossible ...
IT'S SIMPLE.
THEY ADJUSTED YOUR WATCH WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING
YOU DON'T CARRY YOUR WATCH WITH YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING, RIGHT?
AD-JUST-ED?
THEY CAN'T HAVE...
AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR WATCH WITH YOU WHILE YOU WERE TAKING A BATH, RIGHT?

That time...
"I'll leave your clothes here, Kirino-san."
WHEN KOU-SAN CALLED OUT TO YOU AT THE WAITING SHED,
SHE SAW YOU
PUTTING YOUR WATCH IN YOUR POCKET.
TIME WAS RUNNING OUT,
SINCE THEY INVITED YOU TO THEIR HOUSE.
ON THAT DAY,
THEY ADJUSTED YOUR WATCH WHILE YOU WERE TAKING A BATH
THEN AFTER, THEY TOLD YOU THEIR CLOCK HAD STOPPED,
TO TEST YOU.

TO TEST
IF YOU NOTICED IF YOUR WATCH HAS MOVED OR STOPPED
TEST ME...?
IT CONFIRMS THAT
THEY CAN PROCEED WITH THEIR PLAN.
IF YOU TOOK OUT YOUR WATCH AND DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT IT,
HM? THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE TIME.
I wonder what time it is.
THEY'LL SAY THEIR CLOCK HAS STOPPED
The time
AND SEE IF YOU CHECK YOUR WATCH FOR THE TIME.
DIDN'T NOTICE.
AND YOU,

WHEN THE CLOCK POINTED AT 10:10PM,
GEN-SAN WENT OUT-SIDE TO LOOK FOR MINEO-SAN.
THE ACTUAL TIME WAS AROUND 9, AND IN 20 MINUTES WHEN MINEO-SAN ARRIVES,
"He's late."
GEN-SAN WAS GOING TO KILL HIM.
IF THE CORPSE WAS FOUND RIGHT AWAY, IT WOULD RAISE COM-MOTION
AND IT WOULD BE KNOWN THAT THE CLOCK WAS TINKERED WITH.
BUT HE COULDN'T LET PEOPLE DISCOVER THE BODY BEFORE 10 O'CLOCK,
SO THAT HIS ALIBI WOULD WORK.
SO AT NIGHT WHEN THERE WERE NO PEOPLE NEARBY,
HE KILLED GEN-SAN HERE BY THE ROCKS ON THE SHORE WHERE PEOPLE CAN ESTIMATE THE TIME.
SFX: KSHHH

THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED AT THE BREAK OF DAWN WHEN THE FERRY WAS DEPARTING.
HE ADJUSTED HIS WATCH BACK TO THE ACTUAL TIME.
AND THEN, WHEN HE COMES BACK, AND AFTER KENJI-SAN IS ASLEEP,
"Listen carefully."
When he went inside, he said.
THEY COULD EASILY MOVE THE CLOCK'S HANDS.
THEIR CLOCK FACE ISN'T COVERED BY GLASS.
I WENT INSIDE THEIR HOUSE.
what he looks like when he thinks it's gonna be a pain.
That's
DETEC-TIVE,
WE SHOULD TELL THE POLICE RIGHT AWAY...!

That's right.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE COULD HAVE PROVED IT.
THE CLOCK HAS BEEN RETURNED TO NORMAL.
WE CAN'T TELL THE POLICE YET.
You were looking so cool until then.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT CAN PROVE WHAT I JUST SAID.
The only one who heard Kou-san lying,
is me.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
JUST ONE MORE BREAK-THROUGH ...
WE NEED,

SFX: KSHHH
I
DON'T
I'M WITH-
DRAWING MY
REQUEST.
I'LL PAY
YOU IN FULL
FOR SOLVING
THE CASE.
Kanji-san?
WANT TO
INVESTI-
GATE THIS
ANYMORE.